the National Seminar on Methodological Issues in the Fixation of Minimum Support Prices are under consideration of the Government.

Crop estimation survey by Government of Madhya Pradesh

†2016. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has formulated crop estimation survey on fruit and vegetable scheme with a view to have estimation of crops and horticulture computation and statistics across Madhya Pradesh;

(a) whether Government have received proposals amounting to four crore rupees for the above said purposes; and

(c) by when this amount is expected to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A scheme of crop estimation Survey on Fruits and Vegetables (CES-F&V) is under implementation by the Government of India through the State Governments on pilot basis in eleven States, other than Madhya Pradesh and some other States, covering 7 fruits and 7 vegetables crops.

Directorate of Horticulture and Farm Forestry, Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a proposal of Rupees 671.90 lakh in November, 2005 for a period of six years from 2006-07 to 2011-12 to cover the State under the Scheme of Crop Estimation Survey of Fruits and Vegetables (CES-F& V). However, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have not agreed to extend the scheme to other States.

Arable land and land holding

2017. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of arable land under actual cultivation, in the country, at present;

(b) what is the size of average land holding, at present, and whether it is economically viable;

(c) what are adverse fallout of decrease in the size of holding; and

(d) the steps taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a): As per the land use statistics for the year 2005-06 the total area of arable land under cultivation is around 183 million hectares in the country.

(b) As per 'Agricultural Census 2000-01', the average size of land holding in the country is 1.32 hectares. Economic viability of land holdings depend on whether

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the same is under multiple cropping, high-valued crops, technology is appropriate and prices are remunerative. Some research studies show the fallout of decrease in size of holdings are rise in small and marginal holdings, narrow base of production activities and underemployment.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include, *inter alia*, the strategies to increase production and productivity of the agricultural sector with resultant increase in the income of farmers in general and marginal and small farmers in particular. These include (i) timely availability of quality inputs, (ii) diversification to high value crops including horticulture, (iii) farmer friendly extension system, (iv) institutional credit flow and strengthening cooperative credit structure. Recently, the Government has also approved two schemes *viz.*, (i) National Food Security Mission and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme for implementing State and District Plans for agricultural development.

Role of CTRI

2018. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Central Tobacco Research Institute in improving the productivity of Virginian Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of Virginia tobacco farmers who were helped in 2006-07 by CTRI;

(c) the proposed plans by CTRI to help Andhra farmers in 2007-08;

(d) whether it is a fact that no new initiative has been taken by CTRI to expand the distribution of high quality seedlings in 2007-08; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the role and future work of CTRI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has played an important role in developing improved varieties and eco-friendly agro-technologies for enhancing productivity and quality of Virginia tobacco. CTRI plays a key role in the transfer of technology and production and distribution of tobacco seed to farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Productivity of Virginia tobacco inreased from 730 kg/ha. in 1950/51 to nearly 1250 kg/ha. in 2005-06.

(b) Around 65,000 Virginia tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh were helped in 2006-07 by CTRI through supply of good quality seed, healthy seedlings and transfer of technology.

(c) Tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh are being helped in 2007-08 by CTRI through supply of good quality seed, healthy seedlings and transfer of technology.

(d) No, Sir. A total of 20,014 kg tobacco seed of improved varieties (Hema, VT 1158, Siri, Gauthami, Kanthi, Kanchan and Rathna) was produced for distribution during 2007-08 season which is in excess of last year's seed production. In addition, arrangements have been made to supply quality seedlings to farmers.